

SUPPOSED AWFUL CALAMITY.

The Italian Frigate *Re Galantuomo* Probably Foundered at Sea.

She is Seen in Distress on the Evening of the 7th.

No Signs of Her the Following Morning.

Statement of Captain Perry, of the Star of the West.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VESSEL.

HER OFFICERS.

A Steamer to be Sent to Search for Her.

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IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Call of the President for Two Hundred Thousand More Troops.

A DRAFT ORDERED TO BE MADE.

Credits for Volunteers to be Given Until April 15.

Official Order Placing General Grant in Command of All the Armies.

WAR GAZETTE.

OFFICIAL.

Additional Draft of Two Hundred Thousand men.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, March 15, 1864.

The following is an order by the President of the United States:—

EXECUTIVE MANDATE. WASHINGTON, March 14, 1864.

In order to supply the force required to be drafted for the navy, and to provide an adequate reserve force for all contingencies, in addition to the five hundred thousand men called for February 1, 1864, the call is hereby made and a draft ordered for two hundred thousand men for the military service, army, navy and marine corps of the United States.

The proportional quotas for the different wards, towns, townships, precincts, or election districts, or counties, will be made known through the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, and account will be taken of the credits and deficiencies of former quotas.

The 15th day of April, 1864, is designated as the time up to which the numbers required from each ward of a city, town, &c., may be raised by voluntary enlistment; and drafts will be made in each ward of a city, town, &c., which shall not have filled the quota assigned to it within the time designated for the number required to fill said quotas.

The drafts will be commenced as soon after the 15th of April as practicable.

The government bounties, as now paid, continue until April 1, 1864, at which time the additional bounties shall be paid, as provided by the act approved July 22, 1861.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Official—E. D. Townsend, Assistant Adjutant General.

Important Military Order. GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 98. WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, March 15, 1864.

The President of the United States orders as follows:—

First—Major General Halleck is, at his own request, relieved from duty as General-in-Chief of the Army, and Lieutenant General U. S. Grant is assigned to the command of the army of the United States. The headquarters of the army will be in Washington, and also with Lieutenant General Grant in the field.

Second—Major General Halleck is assigned to duty in Washington as Chief of Staff of the Army, under the direction of the Secretary of War and the Lieutenant General commanding. His orders will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

Third—Major General W. T. Sherman is assigned to the command of the Military Division of the Mississippi, composed of the Departments of the Ohio, the Cumberland, the Tennessee and the Arkansas.

Fourth—Major General J. B. McPherson is assigned to the command of the Department and Army of the Tennessee.

Fifth—In relieving Major General Halleck from duty as General-in-Chief, the President desires to express his appreciation and thanks for the able and zealous manner in which the arduous and responsible duties of that position have been performed.

By order of the SECRETARY OF WAR. E. D. Townsend, Asst. Adj. General.

GENERAL NEWS.

WASHINGTON, March 15, 1864.

THE GOLD BILL IN THE HOUSE.

The gold bill was again debated at much length to-day in the House; but no vote upon it was had.

The bill was introduced by Mr. Boutwell, favoring the passage of the bill, and expressing his opinion that the public interest required some action of the character of that proposed, produced a very favorable impression.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Hubbard, of New York, providing that nothing in the resolution shall impair the sinking fund created by the act of 1862, will probably be adopted, but will not detract from the efficiency of the measure in its operation to restrict speculation in gold and prevent excessive premium upon it.

The debate to-day failed to develop any new arguments of weight or importance on either side, and became very tedious to those who were present.

It is expected there will be a full attendance and the policy of the majority be fully marked out.

CAUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVES.

A caucus of the democratic members of the House was also announced for this evening; but only a very few were in attendance, and without doing anything, it adjourned.

THE GOODYEAR-INDIA RUBBER PATENT.

The extension of Goodyear's vulcanizing patent is now agitated here by interested parties from the North. The Senate Committee on Patents, at a meeting this morning, decided to wait until the House, whose committee has the subject now before it.

HOMESTEADS FOR SETTLERS ON THE CONFISCATED ESTATES.

The features of the bill recently reported by Representative Johnson, of Indiana, extending the Homestead principle to the confiscated estates of rebels, and of the rebels, were indicated by him in a speech delivered a year ago. The bill was not founded on a letter of Solicitor Whiting, as heretofore stated, although that gentleman, while the measure was pending before the Committee on Public Lands, communicated by request his views upon the subject, which are in support of the same principle.

PROPOSED DIVISION OF IDAHO TERRITORY.

The Committee on Territories have prepared, and will report to-morrow, if opportunity be afforded, a bill for the division of Idaho, the new Territory thus created to be called Montana. The immense extent and rapidly increasing population of Idaho render this division necessary, and there will probably be no opposition to it in the House.

CONTESTING SEATS IN CONGRESS.

The House of Representatives seems determined to discourage the practice of contesting the seats of representatives elect. To-day the resolution to pay Mr. Sloan, the contestant of the seat of Alexander H. Rice, of Boston, seven hundred and fifty dollars for his per diem and mileage was, after a speedy debate, laid upon the table.

THE WILKES COUNTY MARTIAL.

In the Wilkes County martial to-day Commander Baldwin, of the Vanderbilt, was recalled and closely examined concerning the capture of the *Peterhoff*. No new facts were elicited. Commander Wilkes testified as follows: "I was in the *Peterhoff* when it was captured, and I saw the whole thing. I was in the *Peterhoff* when it was captured, and I saw the whole thing. I was in the *Peterhoff* when it was captured, and I saw the whole thing."

TAXATION IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The loyal citizens of Fairfax County, Va., are remonstrating against the oppressive taxation to which they claim they are subjected. Many families owning large estates are unable to do more than accumulate means to support themselves, in consequence of the military situation. Under these circumstances they protest against the collection of taxes due for three years past, until the present restrictions upon trade and the obstacles to farming are removed.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, March 15, 1864.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE UNDER THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

The House took up the Senate bill providing that the franking privilege of the President and Vice President shall extend to and cover all mail matter sent to or from either of them.

Mr. KASON, (rep.) of Iowa, suggested that further consideration be given to the subject, as the mails should not again be thrown open for the sending to these officers, post paid, of all their correspondence, and that the privilege should be limited to the franking of their official correspondence.

Mr. MORRIS, (rep.) of New York, suggested that the privilege be extended to the Vice President, and that the privilege be extended to the Vice President, and that the privilege be extended to the Vice President.

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ADDITIONAL FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the *Urania* and *Mails* of the *Jura*.

Maximilian Likely to Give Up Mexico.

A French Scientific Expedition to the New Empire.

LORD PALMERSTON AND THE FENIANS.

AUSTRIAN REPLY TO THE REVOLUTIONISTS.

THE WAR IN MEXICO.

MAXIMILIAN'S DELAY AND NAPOLEON'S DISAPPOINTMENT.

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